

CAPAFR Proposed Changes to CRC Senate District Visualizations Submitted on July 21, 2011

The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR) thanks the California Citizens Redistricting Commission for their time, dedication and effort in trying to respect Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities of interest as they draw State Assembly, Senate, Congress and Board of Equalization districts. While the Commission has heard AAPI community testimony and reviewed our two mapping responses, we feel there are still changes that could be made to better keep our communities whole.

The district configurations proposed in the CAPAFR Senate plan represent our view of how the geographical integrity of AAPI communities of interest in California can properly be respected. In some areas of Southern California, the Commission's latest Senate visualizations differ significantly from this view. The mapping suggestions we offer are intended to provide the Commission and its line-drawers with a basic idea on how, working within the less than ideal framework the Commission has decided upon for Senate districts in some areas, it can minimize fragmentation of AAPI communities of interest or their submergence into districts with significantly dissimilar areas.

The proposed changes are submitted in response to the Commission's recent visualizations dated July 18 and 19, 2011. We have heard the Commission say that no major changes will be made to these visualizations. Recognizing this, we propose a set of minor changes to specific regions, which are listed below.¹ In each instance, these proposed changes require only a two to three district population shift that does not disturb neighboring regions. We hope the attached description, maps and GIS files will be helpful to both the Commissioners and Q2.

San Francisco/San Mateo Counties

CAPAFR-San Francisco/San Mateo appreciates the efforts of the Commission to preserve AAPI communities of interest in San Francisco and north San Mateo County. Testimony submitted to the Commission consistently notes the importance of maintaining the integrity of a prominent Filipino American community of interest in Daly City and South San Francisco. We recognize that population equality requirements force South San Francisco to be divided in both Assembly and Senate visualizations. Because it is our view that a modified version of the South San Francisco division that appears in the Commission's current Assembly visualization does a better job maintaining this Filipino

¹ We note that in regions other than the ones mentioned below, the Commission's most recent visualizations contain configurations that are likely to result in a negative impact on the ability of AAPI communities of interest and neighborhoods to have fair and effective representation. We also recognize and appreciate that in other instances the Commission's visualizations do maintain the geographical integrity of AAPI communities of interest and neighborhoods. Because unification of those communities of interest and neighborhoods that are split is likely to require more than minor changes, we are not providing comments on other regions in light of the Commission's pronouncement that it is looking to make only minor changes at this point of the process.

American community of interest, we propose that the Commission move toward that division in its Senate visualizations as well.

With this goal in mind, we propose a small, discrete change between SF and SNMAT to better unite the Filipino American community in Daly City and South San Francisco. This change would also result in Senate District SF more closely aligning with a nesting of Assembly Districts WSFDC and ESF.

Proposed changes to San Francisco/San Mateo County districts:

Move census tract 6026 and 6019.01 from SNMAT to SF. Move Census Tract 6001, which includes Brisbane whole and 6020 from SF to SNMAT for population equality. Both SNMAT and SF remain within 1% deviation.

Orange County

CAPAFR-Orange County understands the challenges the Commission faces in this region. The north Orange County community of interest in Cypress, Buena Park, Fullerton and Brea remains a major concern of our coalition. While coalition members in these areas would prefer their cities be placed in a Senate district with Cerritos and Artesia, we understand the Commission has decided not to cross the county line and to instead keep the two cities in Los Angeles County districts. However, we are concerned that the Commission's current visualization draws the majority of Buena Park into Los Angeles County and divides the Orange County community of interest in Cypress, Buena Park, Fullerton and Brea, which the Commission has received significant community testimony about.

In order to keep Orange County communities of interest together and respect the Voting Rights Act in adjacent Los Angeles County, we propose unifying the City of Buena Park into a district with Fullerton and Brea, while moving La Habra into the adjacent district to create a 50% Latino CVAP district. This change would maintain the same number of county splits, while reducing the number of city splits by one (by unifying the City of Buena Park).

Proposed changes to Orange County & Southern Los Angeles County districts:

Unify the City of Buena Park by moving the portion that is in LAPRW into CHFUL. Move the City of La Habra and a few unincorporated areas inside the city from CHFUL into LAPRW to increase the Latino CVAP from 49.6% to 50.01% in LAPRW. Both LAPRW and CHFUL remain within 1% deviation.

San Diego County

CAPAFR-San Diego appreciates the Commission's attempts to accommodate considerable testimony from San Diego County's AAPI communities asking it to maintain the integrity of two core areas: (1) the northern part of the City of San Diego, including Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Mira Mesa, Carmel Valley, Sorrento

Valley, and Kearny Mesa and (2) the South County areas of eastern National City, Paradise Hills, Bay Terraces, Bonita, and eastern Chula Vista.

The Commission's decision to blend the county's Assembly Voting Rights Act seat with adjacent areas to the east (creating district ISAND) unites communities in eastern National City, Bay Terraces, Bonita, and eastern Chula Vista consistently divided in Assembly and Congressional visualizations. However, we are seriously concerned about the Commission's visualization that places the northern part of the City of San Diego with rural areas stretching to the county's border with Riverside and Imperial Counties. The resulting Senate seat (NESAN) places urban and rural areas with very different needs and concerns in the same district and would result in ineffective representation for constituents throughout the region.

CAPAFR-San Diego asks the Commission to place the northern part of the City of San Diego, including the San Diego neighborhoods of Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Mira Mesa, Carmel Valley, North City, Sorrento Valley and Miramar, in the district CSAND with other parts of the city, while drawing more rural, incorporated cities in the eastern part of CSAND into the rural district NESAND, with which they have more in common.

Proposed changes to San Diego County districts:

Move San Diego neighborhoods of Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Mira Mesa, Carmel Valley, North City, Sorrento Valley and Miramar into CSAND. Move the cities of Spring Valley, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and El Cajon into NESAN. Both CSAND and NESAN remain within 1% deviation.